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PRIORITY TOPICS

PROMOTION OF COORDINATION AND COOPERATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs Resolution 1(XXXIV)**

Report by the Secretariat

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Introduction

1. In paragraph 1(b) of resolution 1(XXXIV), entitled "International and regional coordination", the Commission on Narcotic Drugs requested the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) "to undertake a study with a view to making an inventory of all regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations engaged in the fight against drug abuse in all its aspects, together with their mandates, including, where practicable, a list of their current activities". In paragraph 2 of the resolution, the Commission also requested the Executive Director "to study the nature, frequency and duration of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies, including their financial implications, and to make proposals thereon to the Commission at its 1992 session, with a view to strengthening such meetings".

2. Chapter I of the present document reports on the progress achieved to date in compiling an inventory of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Chapter II responds to the Commission's request to study the nature, frequency and duration of meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies (HONLEAs). Because of the similar nature of the Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East (Sub-Commission), and in the light of suggestions made at the last session of that body, the study and proposals contained in chapter II also cover the Sub-Commission. The present study does not purport to be exhaustive, but rather focuses on the most salient functions of the subsidiary bodies as a prelude to recommending ways and means of improving their functioning.

3. As specified by the Commission, the inventories of IGOs and NGOs will be used by UNDCP to identify opportunities to improve mutual collaboration and to seek arrangements with the organizations concerned to avoid duplication and overlapping of programmes and to ensure broad collection of information for the Secretary-General's annual report to the General Assembly. In addition, the inventory of NGOs should facilitate worldwide dissemination of information on demand reduction activities being undertaken at the national or reginal levels.

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INVENTORY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND RELEVANT NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE

4. As of 20 February 1992, the Inter-Organization Cooperation Division of UNDCP had identified 23 IGOs of the type envisaged in Commission resolution 1(XXXIV). On the basis of data available to UNDCP, a "Data Sheet for Intergovernmental Organizations for UNDCP Inventory" ("Data Sheet") has been developed for each of those IGOs, and submitted to the respective IGO for review and, when appropriate, updating, correction or completion. A sample "Data Sheet" is reproduced in the annex.

5. The "Data Sheet" is intended to supply UNDCP with the information needed to improve cooperation with IGOs active in the drug abuse control field. The Commission may accordingly wish to review and comment on the thoroughness of the headings and subtitles on the "Data Sheet" in the annex with a view to

6. As of 20 February 1992, the External Relations and Public Information Office of UNDCP had indentified some 200 NGOs active in the field of drug and substance abuse issues. The process of tabulating and updating the information available on each of those NGOs has been started and it may be expected that the list of NGOs will grow as the work of data collection proceeds.

7. The data being entered on fact sheets for each organizations includes attendance at the 1987 International Conference on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (ICDAIT) as well as Commission sessions from 1988. Membership in either the New York or Vienna NGO drug committees, reports submitted to those committees or to the Commission, contributions to ICDAIT and involvement in UNDCP projects are also listed for each organization, as is any other available information on each NGO's general and drug-related mandates. Much of the data collected reflects replies to a UNDCP questionnaire addressed both to Governments and NGOs on the implementation of the first seven targets of the Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Outline of Future Activities in Drug Abuse Control (CMO) adopted by ICDAIT.

8. UNDCP intends to avail itself of the presence of many NGOs at the thirty-fifth session of the Commission to review with them the nature and extent of the data being gathered for the NGO inventory.

II. STUDY ON THE NATURE, FREQUENCY AND DURATION OF THE MEETINGS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

9. As indicated in paragraph 2 above, the present study includes the Sub-Commission as well as the regional meetings of HONLEAs. There are four reasons for this inclusion. First, the Economic and Social Council has assimilated HONLEAs to the Sub-Commission in the terms of paragraph 3 of resolution 1987/34. Second, any discussion of HONLEAs will gain in clarity if the similarities and differences with the remaining subsidiary body are understood. Third, the Sub-Commission has recommended certain changes in its own schedule of meetings (see draft Decision II contained in document E/CN.7/1992/3) which may usefully be considered in the context of all of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission. Fourth, since the purpose of the study is to strengthen meetings of HONLEAs, it is submitted that any such improvements suggested by the Commission might apply equally to the Sub-Commission.

10. This study consists of three sections: A. Background information on the subsidiary bodies covering: (i) terms of reference and general background information; (ii) an analysis of their membership and composition; (iii) the frequency and duration of meetings; (iv) the financial implications of convening the meetings; B. Recent measures taken to improve the efficiency of the subsidiary bodies; and C. Proposals for further strengthening the subsidiary bodies.

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

(i) Terms of reference and background

(a) HONLEAs

11. The first regional HONLEA to be established was for the region of Asia and the Pacific. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1845(LVI) of 15 May 1974, endorsed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on illicit traffic in the Far East Region (which it had set up a year earlier) and requested the Secretary-General to convene regular meetings of the operational heads of national drug law enforcement agencies in the region. Other recommendations were that the body should discuss operational matters and provide a forum in which to further international cooperation to develop the full potential of drug law enforcement in the region. HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, met for the first time later in 1974 and meetings of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, and of the Sub-Commission (see paragraph 16 below) continued to be the only regional subsidiary bodies of the Commission for a number of years.

12. Then, in December of 1982, the General Assembly adopted resolution 37/198 in which it requested the Secretary-General "to explore all avenues leading to further improving regional and international coordination of activities against drug trafficking and drug abuse, in particular:

(a) To explore the feasibility of establishing, on a continuing basis, coordination mechanisms for drug law enforcement in regions where these do not exist;

[.....]

(c) To consider convening in 1986 an interregional meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies."

The Assembly reiterated its request for an interregional meeting of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies (Interregional HONLEA) in resolution 39/143 of 14 December 1984. Interregional HONLEAs were held in 1986 and in 1989.

13. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1985/11 of 28 May 1985, requested the Secretary-General to convene regular meetings of HONLEA, Africa. In doing so, the Council recognized "the urgent need to establish coordination mechanisms for similar drug law enforcement cooperation in the Africa region" as had already been established for Asia and the Pacific.

14. HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean was established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/34 of 26 May 1987. In that resolution, the Council granted to HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, "the status of a subsidiary organ of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, similar to that accorded the Sub-Commission" and the two other existing HONLEA's.

15. Finally, by resolution 1990/30 of 24 May 1990, the Economic and Social Council established HONLEA, Europe "along the lines of the meetings of heads of national drug law enforcement agencies that have already been established for other regions and with the status of a subsidiary organ of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs".

(b) Sub-Commission

16. The Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East was established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1776 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, endorsing resolution 6(XXV) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. In that resolution, the Commission established the Sub-Commission to study the implementation of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on Illicit Traffic in the Near and Middle East (which had been set up in 1972) and to formulate and propose to the Commission recommendations on measures to address illicit drug traffic and other related matters in the region. The Sub-Commission met for the first time in 1974.

(ii) Membership and composition

(a) HONLEAs

17. Contrary to the case of the Sub-Commission (see paragraphs 21-22 below), none of the resolutions creating the four HONLEAs clearly identified those States that were to be members or even delineated the exact territory which constituted the "region". The identification of States as members or observers of a HONLEA meeting has, therefore, been done on an ad hoc basis rather than on any system established by the Commission.

18. Participation as a member of a HONLEA meeting has mostly been determined with reference to a State's membership on one of the regional commissions although, especially for Asia and the Pacific, the criteria have varied through the years. Thus, in the case of HONLEA, Africa, the 51 States which take part in the work of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) are invited to attend as members; in the case of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, the 41 States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) are invited to attend as members; and with regard to HONLEA, Europe, the 34 States members of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) are invited to participate as members.

19. Membership of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, has been more complex through the years, partly due to the fact that the subsidiary body never corresponded exactly to the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Initial membership was formally increased by Commission decisions in 1976 and 1979. Thereafter formal decisions on membership were discontinued.

20. The question of observer status has also varied. The present practice is to allow any country to attend as observer at their own expense.

(b) Sub-Commission

21. Membership on the Sub-Commission, contrary to HONLEA meetings, has always been the subject of specific Economic and Social Council decisions based on recommendations by the Commission.

22. The Sub-Commission initially consisted of representatives of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Sweden and Turkey. The membership of the Sub-Commission has been enlarged, through the years, to include Bahrain, Egypt, India, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. There are thus

(iii) Frequency and duration of meetings

(a) HONLEAs

23. Since the first meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, was held in 1974, a total of sixteen meetings have been held to date. The first meetings of HONLEA, Africa, and HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, were both held at in 1987 and in both regions four meetings have been held to date. The first and only meeting of HONLEA, Europe, was held in 1990. The standard procedure has been for HONLEA meetings to sit for five working days.

24. In its resolutions 1845(LVI) and 1985/11, establishing, respectively, the meetings of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, and HONLEA, Africa, the Council requested the Secretary-General "to convene regular meetings". No specific reference to the frequency of such meetings was made in any of the resolutions establishing HONLEAs. However, in its resolution 1988/15, the Council requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to convene the regional meetings of HONLEA "at the capital of States in the respective regions that may wish to act as host or at the headquarters of the regional commission concerned, annually, beginning in 1988, except in years when an interregional meeting is held". Since 1988 HONLEA meetings have been held annually, with the exception of HONLEA, Europe, which only met in 1990.

(b) Sub-Commission

25. Under its original 1973 terms of reference, the Sub-Commission was to meet once a year in Geneva (then headquarters of its secretariat, the former Division of Narcotic Drugs) and to undertake an annual study tour "in the territories of the regional members". In resolution 1988/14 of 25 May 1988, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Sub-Commission

> "shall continue to meet annually at a capital in the region, whenever possible, and at the United Nations Office at Vienna prior to the regular or special sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs."

Study tours were discontinued in 1979 and in practice meetings in the region of the Sub-Commission have not proven feasible on an annual basis. Meetings which can be organized in the region normally last five working days, like HONLEAs, while those meetings held at Vienna are usually limited to two days.

26. At its recent twenty-eighth session held at Tehran in November 1991, the Sub-Commission examined the question of the periodicity and duration of its sessions and concluded that in future it would be preferable to meet for a period of five working days in one of the countries of the region and that the second meeting at Vienna should be discontinued. A draft decision on this issue is before the Commission in document E/CN.7/1992/3 (paragraphs 15-16).

(iv) Financial implications

27. From the UNDCP budgetary viewpoint, the elements which make up the cost of a meeting of a regional HONLEA or of the Sub-Commission (e.g. travel for participants and staff, interpretation, translation and related conference service costs) are by and large identical. The fundamental difference between the financial implications of convening a meeting of HONLEA and one of the Sub-Commission resides in the fact that meetings of the Sub-Commission are financed entirely from the United Nations regular budget whereas HONLEA has,

28. In both cases, UNDCP provides the secretariat personnel to organize and service the meetings as well as whatever follow-up action may be required at the secretariat level. The conference services involved, particularly interpretation, translation and other related services, are usually supplied by the Office of Conference Services of the Department of Administration and Management of the United Nations. The cost of all those services is absorbed by the United Nations.

(a) HONLEAs

29. Economic and Social Council resolution 1845 (LVI) of 15 May 1974, which established HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, recommended that "the travel expenses and subsistence of one participant from each country in the region should be borne by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control". This principle has continued through the years and in resolution 1988/15 the Council again requested the Secretary-General "to provide the financial resources required from available resources and, if necessary, to seek additional extrabudgetary resources". Extrabudgetary financial support has thus continued to be made available to assist those States that could not otherwise be represented at meetings by defraying both the travel expenses and subsistence for one participant. Such assistance was previously provided for by the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control (UNFDAC) on an ad hoc basis, and was provided in 1991 by the UNDCP Fund. Observer participants attend meetings at their own expense.

30. That part of the cost of the HONLEA meetings paid by the Fund in 1990 and 1991 were: HONLEA, Africa: 1990 (Cairo): US$ 76 400 and 1991 (Nairobi): US$ 95 600; HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific: 1990 (Beijing): US$ 54 000 and 1991 (Canberra): US$ 90 900; HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean: 1990 (Oranjestad, Aruba): US$ 34 700 and 1991 (Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia): US$ 49 700.

31. In the case of a meeting hosted by a Government of the region, the United Nations enters into an agreement with that Government based on General Assembly resolution 40/243. That agreement stipulates that the host Government agrees to defray any additional cost, direct or indirect, incurred by the United Nations for holding the meeting at a venue other than the headquarters of the respective regional commission. Those headquarters cities are Bangkok (for ESCAP), Santiago (for ECLAC), Addis Ababa (for ECA) and Geneva (for ECE). The additional cost would usually arise in connection with travel and subsistence for interpreters*, translators* and conference support staff.

32. At the thirty-fourth session of the Commission (see report E/1991/24, paragraph 154) several speakers were of the opinion that application of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/243 to meetings of HONLEA, Africa, was unfair to potential hosts because Addis Ababa was located geographically closer to Geneva and Vienna than were many African countries, notably the Sub-Saharan group. This question was raised at the fourth meeting of HONLEA, Africa, where a resolution was adopted. The text of that resolution is before the Commission in document E/CN.7/1992/3 (paragraphs 4-7).

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* The working languages of the regional meetings are: Asia and the Pacific:

(b) Sub-Commission

33. Expenses for convening a meeting of the Sub-Commission, whether at Vienna or in a capital of the region, are covered by the regular budget of the United Nations in the same way as for a session of the Commission itself. Thus travel for one participant is paid by the United Nations but no subsistence allowance is given in line with the financial regulations governing functional commissions. All conference support costs are absorbed by the conference service section of the regular budget.

34. As in the case of regional HONLEAs, actual expense to a host Government is usually limited to possible transportation requirements and the need for securing appropriate conference premises and equipment. All travel costs for members of the Sub-Commission are absorbed under the regular budget.

B. RECENT MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

35. In 1990-1991 the subsidiary bodies have adopted a new approach which focuses on the identification of priority issues facing drug law enforcement agencies in the respective regions and the establishment of ad hoc working groups to consider such matters. This approach has facilitated the examination of urgent and sensitive matters in a direct, informal manner, and has resulted in the formulation of a large number of recommendations for action at the Governmental level without the need for further consideration by the Commission. In 1991, meetings have generally limited themselves to the convening of no more than 3 or 4 working groups, which has the advantage of ensuring the participation of a broad cross section of all the delegations at the meeting. Naturally, the need to ensure interpretation at several working groups simultaneously can be a problem, and the convening of working groups should be scheduled in such a way as not to put smaller delegations at a disadvantage. Nevertheless, the working group approach should be encouraged (see Recommendation 7 below).

36. In order to ensure the follow-up to and monitoring of the implementation of their recommendations, the subsidiary bodies have included in their 1991 agendas an item under which they reviewed action taken at the national level to implement recommendations adopted at their previous meetings. HONLEA, Africa, has forwarded a formal proposal to the Commission in this connection (see E/CN.7/1992/3, paragraph 7), which has in fact already been acted on by the subsidiary bodies. It is important that all action taken in response to resolutions and recommendations from the subsidiary bodies should be monitored and evaluated by the bodies themselves (see Recommendation 8 below).

37. Within the network of subsidiary bodies of the Commission, there has been a valuable development whereby one regional meeting requests another to consider specific operational problems that concern both regions. Thus, the 1990 Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, when addressing the involvement of African nationals acting as couriers in the illicit heroin traffic, requested the 1990 Meeting of HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific, to examine the problem from its perspective. Likewise, the 1990 Meeting of HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean, after discussion of measures to monitor precursor chemicals from the perspective of countries where illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs takes place, requested the 1990 Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, to consider further control measures as manufacturers of such precursors. This interchange [illegible] to strengthen interregional coordination

38. Both the General Assembly and the Commission have expressed support for these new approaches. In its resolution 46/103 of 16 December 1991 the General Assembly expressed its satisfaction that the regional meetings of HONLEA and the Sub-Commission were "sources of very useful recommendations for law enforcement action at the regional level oriented towards solving specific problems of the various regions". Strong support for the new initiatives were also expressed by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session in 1991 (E/1991/26, paragraphs 138 and 145).

C. PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

39. While there seems to be broad agreement that the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs have performed well in carrying out the tasks assigned to them, the past experience of those bodies can certainly be built upon to improve even further their capacity to contribute in the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

(i) Terms of reference and organization of meetings

40. Both the Sub-Commission and the regional HONLEAs have as their primary mandate the question of illicit drug trafficking and identification of measures to counter that traffic. Recently, the possible need to consider other issues at the regional level in a similar forum has been raised: such issues include measures for demand reduction and harmonization of national drug control legislation in the respective regions. The additional cost of holding regional meetings on a variety of topics each year is clearly a major obstacle to that approach. As concerns demand reduction, two options were succintly stated at the last session of the Commission: the introduction of a demand reduction component in the agenda of existing subsidiary bodies or the establishment of a separate regional mechanism to address "demand reduction and related matters" (see E/1991/26, paras. 35-36).

41. In view of the urgency of the issue and the restricted resources available, the Executive Director has sought to find a solution which might result in the liberation of scarce extrabudgetary resources which could be used for other regional activities such as those referred to above. In this connection, the Executive Director has initiated a dialogue with the Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) which, if brought to fruition, could contribute to alleviating the situation.

42. The proposal advanced by the Executive Director is based on the principle of UNDCP organizing only one regional meeting on law enforcement matters every other year in those regions where both UNDCP and Interpol now each hold such meetings. The concept has the added advantage of ensuring that every effort is made to avoid overlap of activities and duplication of effort.

43. Discussions to date are well advanced and have focused on arrangements for 1992 in three regions. If finalized and approved, these would lead to deferral until 1993 of HONLEA, Europe, and HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean. Instead, UNDCP would participate actively in two meetings organized by Interpol (Heads of National Drugs Service, Europe, 4-7 May, Lyon, France, and Heads of National Drugs Services, Latin America and the Caribbean, date and venue open); and Interpol would be more deeply involved in the conduct of HONLEA, Africa, (18-22 May, Abuja) organized by UNDCP.

44. Under the terms of the proposal, primary responsibility for organizing regional meetings would be assigned to either UNDCP or Interpol, but with far greater participation of the other organization in each meeting than has been the case to date. Financing of United Nations meetings would remain a responsibility of UNDCP and Interpol would finance its own meetings; various organizational aspects would be coordinated between UNDCP and Interpol.

45. In view of the short lead time, provisional arrangements have been made to participate in the meeting of Heads of National Drugs Services, Europe, in May 1992. All three meetings in 1992 would be subject to critical review and, if the arrangements are satisfactory to both UNDCP and Interpol, they would be continued in 1993 (see Recommendation 1 below).

(ii) Membership

46. As mentioned in paragraphs 17-22 above, the question of the status of member or observer of a subsidiary body has been formally established in some cases and not in others. There are also cases of States being members of more than one subsidiary body, for various reasons. As a result mainly of the application of the rule of membership in a regional commission as a yardstick for membership in HONLEAs, the following States are currently members of more than one subsidiary body of the Commission: Canada, Egypt, France, India, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Commission may wish to consider the advisability of reviewing the membership of all its subsidiary bodies with a view to formally identifying the States that are considered members. One option is that, with some specific exceptions, each State should be a member of only one subsidiary body. There may also be an advantage to reviewing and confirming the observers who should be invited to the various meetings of subsidiary bodies, it being understood that no State would thereby be precluded from requesting a specific status at any time (see Recommendation 2 below).

47. Participation in the meetings of subsidiary bodies has increased, particularly in the last two years, with more countries of each region as well as observers from other regions attending most meetings in record numbers. This has contributed to the recognized usefulness of the meetings by the General Assembly and the Commission mentioned above in paragraph 38. However, a recurring problem is the late nomination of participants to attend such meetings, leaving them little time to prepare adequately for effective participation in the meeting. Late nomination of participants also causes administrative difficulties and can often result in extra expense to both the host government and UNDCP. Meetings of subsidiary bodies would benefit greatly if this problem was solved. A possible solution would be for each State, to the extent possible, to inform UNDCP of the operational head of the national drug law enforcement agency which would likely attend meetings of the subsidiary bodies. A copy of the agenda of the meeting and related pre-session documentation would then be sent to that person at the time when the formal invitations are forwarded to Governments through the official channels. This would permit timely preparation to be made by the services directly concerned with the meetings (see Recommendation 3 below).

(iii) Frequency and duration of meetings

48. The Sub-Commission has recommended to the Commission to do away with the short meeting of that body usually convened just prior to the session of the Commission and to hold an annual 5-day meeting in a country of the region. If the Commission acts positively on those recommendations, all meetings of subsidiary bodies would in future be convened in the respective regions for a period of five working days. The question of the standardization of the duration of all meetings of subsidiary bodies is thus before the Commission; the Commission is also called upon to consider the frequency of some meetings (see paragraphs 40-45 above). If desired, the Secretariat will prepare detailed statements of the programme budget implications of any action the Commission may wish to consider.

(iv) Source of funding

49. As pointed out in paragraph 27 above, the fundamental difference between funding for the Sub-Commission and the regional HONLEAs is that the former is financed under the regular budget of the United Nations whereas HONLEAs depend on extrabudgetary resources for travel and subsistence allowance for participants. The Commission may wish to consider the advantages and disadvantages of bringing all meetings of subsidiary bodies under the regular budget of the United Nations. Any such examination, if desired by the Commission, would require the preparation of detailed programme budget implications. The secretariat is prepared to undertake that task if requested.

(v) Training programmes

50. The subsidiary bodies have been instrumental in addressing the problem of drug law enforcement training. Following the adoption by the Commission of resolution 4(XXXIV), in which it requested UNDCP to convene working groups for the purpose of developing a drug law enforcement training strategy for each region, the subsidiary bodies established working groups to that effect in the course of their meetings in 1991. These have identified the needs and priorities for drug law enforcement for each region and have proposed mechanisms for their implementation. The subsidiary bodies could in future be used as mechanisms to review the implementation of training programmes at the regional level (see Recommendation 4 below).

(vi) Reports on illicit traffic

51. The meetings of the subsidiary bodies constitute valuable sources of information with regard to the drug trafficking situation in the respective regions. In this connection, the Intergovernmental Expert Group to Study the Economic and Social Consequences of Illicit Traffic in Drugs, in paragraph 30(a) of its report (A/C.3/45/8) considered HONLEA meetings to be ideal mechanisms to collect "standardized strategic information on the extent of drug abuse, money laundering, seizures, organized crime, prices at different stages of the trafficking chain and related information". Since participants in such meetings have direct access to operational information available at the national level, the subsidiary bodies should be requested to provide such information in the chapters of their reports on the review of current trends in illicit traffic (see Recommendation 5 below).

(vii) Performance of Commission functions

52. The subsidiary bodies could be used as regional mechanisms to assist the Commission in the implementation of some of the new functions assigned to it by Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/38, particularly with respect to its review of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. They could, in this connection, be called upon to play an important role in the identification of priorities, reviewing implementation of the Global Programme of Action by Governments and reporting thereon to the Commission as requested. A similar role could be envisaged for the subsidiary bodies with regard to monitoring the implementation of specific targets of the CMO (see Recommendation 6 below).

(viii) Recommendations

53. The recommendations formulated below apply to both meetings of HONLEAs and of the Sub-Commission unless otherwise specified or required by the context. Any recommendation which the Commission might wish to examine in detail will be immediately scrutinized by UNDCP for possible programme budget implications and a statement reflecting any such implications will be presented to the Commission. In view of the hypothetical nature of the suggestions for improvement it was not considered practical to prepare statements of theoretical financial implications for the present report. The secretariat will prepare such statements as and when required.

Recommendation 1

The Commission should decide that whenever HONLEA meetings take place in a region where other regional drug law enforcement meetings occur, the regional HONLEA should be convened only every other year and UNDCP should participate actively in the other regional meeting during those years when the regional HONLEA does not meet.

Recommendation 2

The Commission should clarify the criteria for membership in each subsidiary body, and review the list of observers invited to meetings of each body.

Recommendation 3

Each State member of a subsidiary body of the Commission should inform the Secretariat of the name and address of the operational head of the national drug law enforcement agency which would normally attend meetings of such subsidiary bodies. The secretariat, when issuing invitations to Member States to attend such meetings should send an information copy of the agenda and related documentation to the designated person.

Recommendation 4

The subsidiary bodies should monitor the implementation of UNDCP drug law enforcement training programmes at the regional level and recommend to UNDCP further steps to be taken to enhance those programmes.

Recommendation 5

The subsidiary bodies should report regularly to the Commission on the current trends in the illicit traffic in the respective regions, including information on money laundering, seizures, prices at different stages of the trafficking chain and related information.

Recommendation 6

The Commission should consider ways of using its subsidiary bodies in connection with the fulfillment of its new functions, particularly as concerns monitoring the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. Subsidiary bodies could be requested to identify priority issues and monitor Government implementation, and report thereon to the Commission as required.

54. The three recommendations listed below concern activities which have already been initiated by the subsidiary bodies. The Commission may wish to formally confirm that such action should be continued.

Recommendation 7

Subsidiary bodies should be encouraged to establish working groups at each meeting to examine in depth specific topics which have been, if possible, identified in advance, so that both UNDCP and participants can prepare position papers on these topics for circulation prior to the meeting. UNDCP should schedule the working groups so as to ensure that interpretation services can be supplied whenever possible.

Recommendation 8

The implementation of the recommendations emanating from a given meeting of a subsidiary body should be monitored and reviewed at the next meeting under a special agenda item on that subject.

Recommendation 9

The establishment of a dialogue between subsidiary bodies on issues of mutual concern should be broadened especially when practical coordination or cooperation activities could result from such an exchange of information or perspectives.

Annex

Data Sheet for Intergovernmental Organizations
for UNDCP Inventory

Name: English:

French:

Spanish:

Address:

Telephone:

Telex:

Fax:

E-Mail Address:

Organizational setting (if applicable):

Contact Person on Drug Control (Name): Direct Telephone or extension:

List of States Members:

Statutes of Organization (give title and attach document):

Drug control related Mandates (give document number and attach document):

Contributions to United Nations Documents on Drugs (GA/ECOSOC/CND...):

Participation:

1) International Conference against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (ICDAIT), (17-26 June 1967):

2) Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), (as of 1987)

3) Sub-Commission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East (.....)

4) Meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA)

5) Interregional HONLEA 1986 and 1989:

Drug Control activities and/or participation in UNDCP (UNFDAC) Project Execution (give project